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THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st 1940.

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

DARWEN.

JULY, 1941.

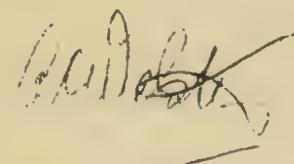
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you a report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1940. In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, the report is abbreviated.

I wish to record my appreciation of the consideration and support shown me by the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, and my appreciation of the work of the staff of the department without whose willingness to undertake additional duties and to work abnormal hours, the functions of the department would have been gravely affected.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE 1940-41.

Councillor John Gregor, J.P. Mayor.

Chairman :-- ... x Councillor T.J. Costello, M.C., M.B.

Vice-Chairman :-- ... x Councillor H.L. Carus.

Alderman F.C. Duckworth.

" H.D. Holland.

" H.W. Knowles, J.P.

" H.R. Marsden, J.P.

" G. Pickup, J.P.

" H.W. Worth, J.P.

Councillor J. Braithwaite.

" J.A. Brooks.

" J.T. Clark.

" R.Eccles.

" H.J. Harwood.

Councillor x R.W. Hill

" x Mrs. A. Hindle, J.P.

A. Holden, J.P.

F.E. Lightoller, J.P.

x J.D.W. Shaw, J.P.

R. Shorrock, C.C.

D. Smith.

x Mrs. B. Thompson, J.P.

E. Westwell.

E. Yates.

x Member of Health Sub-Committee.

Charles Coutts Byers, Town Clerk.

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STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health..)

School Medical Officer.....) R. C. Webster, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of)

Infectious Diseases Hospital)

Senior Sanitary Inspector..)

Meat Inspector.....)

Director of Public Cleansing)

District Sanitary Inspectors.)

) T. C. Almond, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

) F. Littlecott, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

) C. Mayor, M.R.S.I.

Matron, Infectious

Diseases Hospital.....)

Miss E. Anthony, A.R.R.C., S.R.N., S.C.M.

Consultant Obstetrician.....)

) J.L. Potter, M.D., M.R.C.S., M.C.O.G.

) (H.M. Forces - September 1939).

Health Visitors and Child Protection Visitors.....)

) Mrs. H.H. Shawcross, Certified Midwife.

) Miss Fairbrass, S.R.N., R.F.N., S.C.M.,

) A.R.San.I., H.V. Cert. (Resigned

) 28th April, 1940.)

) Miss N. Bennett, S.R.N., S.C.M.,

) A.R.San.I., H.V. Cert.

Municipal Midwives.....)

Miss M. Rigg, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Resigned

) 17th July, 1940).

) Miss F.B. Rimmer, S.R.N., S.C.M.,

) (H.M. Forces from 29th February 1940).

) Mrs. M. Meanwell, S.R.N., S.C.M.

) (Temporary) Commenced 10th May 1940.

) Mrs. D. Marsden, S.R.N., S.C.M.

) (Temporary) Commenced 18th July 1940.

School Dentist (Part-time) ...

R.V. Clarke, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.

School Nurses.....)

Miss E. Hood, S.R.N., S.C.M.

) Miss P.B. Mablit, S.R.N., S.C.M.

) Commenced 5th March 1940.

Chief Clerk.....)

H. Hutchinson.

Clerks.....)

W. Haworth, J. Bamford (H.M. Forces,

) September 1940) Miss M.E. Almond,

) Mrs. H. Lightbown.

School Medical Clerk.....)

Miss E. Fish.

SECTION 1.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (Acres).....	5,959.
Population - Census 1931.....	36,012.
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population Midsummer 1940.....	30,210.
Comparability Factor.....	0.89.
Number of inhabited houses - Census 1931.....	10,258
" " " " " end of 1940 according to Rate Books.....	10,394.
Rateable Value.....	£186,982.
Sum represented by Penny Rate.....	£701.

Unemployment - The number of insured persons in the Borough during 1940 was 13362 and the average percentage unemployed was 9.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1940.

LIVE BIRTHS :-	Total	Males	Females	Birth Rate
Legitimate... 328	161	167)	
Illegitimate. 10	6	4)	- 11.1
	<u>338</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>171</u>)

Rate per thousand births for England and Wales.. 14.6

STILL BIRTHS:-..... 17 15 2

Rate per thousand births..... 50

DEATHS..... 534 246 288 Rate 17.6

Rate per thousand for England and Wales..... 14.3

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

All infants per 1,000 live births.....	25 (Rate 72)
All infants for England and Wales.....	-(Rate 55)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births.....	24 (Rate 69)
Illegitimate births per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	1 (Rate 100)
Deaths from measles (All ages),.....	2 (Rate 0.06)
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages),.....	5 (Rate 0.16)
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age),....	1 (Rate 0.03)

Deaths from Cancer (all ages),..... 58 (Rate 1.91)

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	<u>Deaths.</u>	Rate per 1000 Total Births	England and Wales.
From Puerperal Sepsis.....	0	0.00	0.52
From other Puerperal Causes.....	<u>4</u>	<u>11.08</u>	<u>1.64</u>
	<u>4</u>	<u>11.08</u>	<u>2.16</u>

The following are the individual causes of deaths under this heading:-

- Case No. 1. 1(a) Pulm Embolism, (b) Caesarean section.
- Case No. 2. 1(a) Cardiac Failure, (b) Haemorrhage, (c) incomplete abortion.
- Case No. 3. 1(a) Hyperemesis gravidarum, (b) toxæmia of Pregnancy, 2. Obstetric shock.
- Case No. 4. 1(a) Confinement - instrumental delivery, (b) Retained placenta, (c) surgical shock.

SECTION 2.

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

During the year the following specimens were examined at Bull Hill Hospital:-

Throat swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli....	226
Cerebro Spinal Fluid.....	3
Other Specimens.....	3

There are no changes to record under this heading.

SECTION 3.

Maternity & Child Welfare.

Ante and Post-Natal Clinics. - In September 1939, Mr. Potter, Consultant Obstetrician to the district, left for Military Service. Consultant Clinics lapsed, but increased work was taken over by the Medical Officer of Health's Clinic. Practitioners requiring assistance in the delivery of Patients may call in other consultants whose fees are covered by the Local Authority.

115 Clinics were held by the Medical Officer at which 256 women made 875 attendances.

There is no ad hoc Post-Natal Clinic but 25 women were seen as to post-natal conditions by the Medical Officer of Health.

DENTAL SCHEME.

Number of women referred to Dental Clinic by Medical Officer.....	15
Number of women found to require treatment.....	15
Number who received treatment.....	15
Number of treatments (a) fillings.....	Nil
(b) teeth extractions.....	89
(c) number of patients supplied with dentures...	12
(d) number of dentures supplied.....	20

Supervision of Midwives. A prosecution of a Midwife before the Central Midwives' Board was undertaken by the Local Authority in January 1940.

The charges were based on failure to call in medical aid in a case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum and failure to send a notification of exposure to infection in relation to the same child.

The Board found the charges proved and suspended the Midwife from practice directing her to undergo a course of instruction and if a satisfactory report on same was received she would be permitted to resume practice. The report was not entirely satisfactory and the Board decided to allow her to resume if the Local Authority would undertake close supervision of her work. The Authority declined to agree to this course and after some correspondence the Board of its own motion allowed her to practice. This case has been referred to in the report for 1939.

Orthopaedic Clinic. (Lancashire County Council Scheme.)

Number of individual school children attended.....	57
Number of individual pre-school " ".....	25
Number of attendances made.....	489
Splints supplied.....	47
Remedial exercises given.....	116
Number of children admitted to hospital.....	3
Number of children referred to Manchester Royal Infirmary for X-ray and consultation.....	3

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.Darwen Children.

Number of individual children who first attended -	
Under 1 year.....	268
1 - 5 years.....	24
Total number of attendances of children -	
Under 1 year.....	4883
1 - 5 years.....	3104
Total number of examinations by the Medical Officer of Health.....	964

Evacuees.

Total number of attendances of children -	
Under 1 year.....	123
1 - 5 years.....	222
Total number of examinations by the Medical Officer of Health.....	28

HOME VISITATION OF MOTHERS.

Visits to Expectant Mothers -	First Visits.....	109
	Total Visits.....	115
Visits to children under one year.....	First Visits.....	301
	Total Visits.....	1984
Ditto. do. children 1 - 5 yrs.	Total Visits.....	3690

In addition a large number of special visits were made
for various purposes.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

One person was proceeded against under Section 206
of the Public Health Act, 1936. A conviction was obtained
and the defendant was ordered to pay costs.

Public notices have been issued reminding the public
of their responsibilities respecting the registration of
themselves and of children when nursed out for reward.

Mr. J. G. Almond, Senior Sanitary Inspector and Director of Public Cleansing, submits in Sections 4,5, & 6, a summary of the work done by the Inspectorial Staff, and the Public Cleansing Department:-

SECTION 4.
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The use of a private water supply at a Farm has been discontinued owing to surface pollution and town's water has to be laid on. No further progress has been made with regard to provision of town's water at two houses reported upon in the 1938 report.

Samples of water were taken during the year, 11 for bacteriological examination and 14 for chemical analysis. Nine were taken from public supplies and proved satisfactory. Five samples from private supplies were satisfactory except that in one case the lead content was found to be slightly higher than that generally regarded as harmless. Advice was offered to the occupier of the house.

Sanitary Inspection.

Primary Inspections.....	2411
Re-inspections.....	829
Defects or nuisances discovered.....	703
Defects or nuisances abated..	698
Informal notices served.....	703
Statutory " "	6
Legal Proceedings.....	Nil

Drainage & Sewerage. - There were no important extensions of sewerage during the year.

Rivers and Streams. - Periodic inspections were made.

Closet Accommodation.

No.of Privy Middens.....	0
No.of Pail Closets.....	152
No.of Dry Ashpits.....	0
No.of movable Ashbins.....	11811
No.of Houses on Water Carriage System.....	10516
No.of Fresh Water Closets...	9532
No.of Waste Water Closets...	2163
No.of Waste Water Closets Converted to Fresh Water	
Closets.....	18

Public Cleansing. - An endeavour has been made to maintain collections of house refuse as normal as possible despite depleted and changing staff. A Salvage Service has been put into operation as a result of which waste paper, scrap metal and kitchen waste have been made available to assist the War Effort. A Licence to boil pig food has been obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the plant complies with the latest Order respecting boiling of Animal Foodstuffs.

Shops Act, 1934 - Routine visits and inspections were made.

Swimming Baths and Pools - The water of the Town's Public Swimming Baths was examined bacteriologically during the year. The results were satisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. - Premises found to be infested have been dealt with by the use of Hydrogen Cyanide or other Gaseous method. The fumigation by Cyanide was undertaken by Contractors.

Offensive Trades - There are five premises in the Borough occupied by such trades. These were kept under supervision.

Factories Act, 1937 - The provisions of the Act, so far as they concern the Public Health Department, were applied. The administration of the Act was satisfactory. Wherever possible, the Department co-operated with H. M. Inspectors of Factories.

SECTION 5.

New houses erected during the year -

By the Local Authority.....	0
By other Local Authorities.....	0
By other bodies or persons.....	3
By State assistance under the Housing Acts.....	0

SECTION 6.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

No. of Dairy Farms.....	65
No. of Cowkeepers (including Dairyfarms).....	68
Approximate No. of cows in the District.....	850
No. of inspections during the year.....	93
No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers).....	166

Repairs and alterations were carried out at three farms at an estimated cost of £1,600.

The usual inspections were made of premises where food is prepared.

An application to become the Local Authority under the Food and Drugs Act 1938 was approved by the Ministry of Health and the Corporation accordingly became the Authority as from 1st April, 1940.

Samples of milk submitted for biological test for Tuberculosis..	5
Results:- Positive.....	1.
Negative.....	4.
Samples of milk submitted for bacteriological examination.....	22
Results:- Satisfactory.....	11.
Unsatisfactory.....	11.
Samples of other Foods submitted for analysis.....	73
Results:- In one instance the sample proved to be unsatisfactory and legal proceedings were instituted, the defendant being fined £2 and £3.18.0. costs.	

SECTION 7.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Total Deaths	Hospital	
			Total Cases Removed to Hos- pital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to the district
Smallpox	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	30	-	23	-
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	19	1	19	1
Enteric fever (including paratyphoid)	1	-	1	-
Measles, excluding German Measles	331	2	6	-
Whooping Cough	100	5	1	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary and influenza)	5	2	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	1	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	3	-	3	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	7	1	7	-
Acute Polio- encephalitis	1	-	1	-
Encephalitis lethargica	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	2	-	1	-
Erysipelas (Con- tracted Abroad)	3	1	1	1
Malaria (In this country. (Abroad)	-	-	-	-
Any other Diseases notifiable in district.e.g.				
Chicken-pox	-	-	1	-
Any other disease	-	-	-	-
German Measles	-	-	1	-
T.B.Meningitis	-	1	1	1
Observation case	-	-	1	-
Totals :-	503	13	67	3

^X Notifiable from 23rd of October 1939, under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulation, 1939.

VACCINATION.Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of pre-school children immunised.....12
 Number of school children immunised.....113
 Total 125

TUBERCULOSIS.New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
5	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
20	1	2	1	1	3	1	-	-
25	2	1	2	1	3	1	-	-
35	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
45	4	1	-	-	4	-	1	-
55	3	1	-	-	3	1	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1	-
Totals..	12	7	4	4	15	4	1	1
	19		8		19		2	

x Adjusted to agree with Registrar General's figures.

SECTION 8.

Evacuation.

Further groups of adults and children were received during 1940 and the staff of the Department co-operated in arrangements for reception and in hygiene and medical care of the persons.

SECTION 9.

Training of personnel was continued throughout the year.

The standard of attendances on "alerts" by the personnel, whole and part-time, was good.

Medical examination of Civil Defence personnel was continued.

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